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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY Syria/Iraq

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 4 May 1949

SUBJECT Statement of General Husni Za'im to
Iraqi Independence Party Delegation
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1. General Husni Za'im told the Iraqi Independence Party delegation* in Damascus that, whereas he had no quarrel with the Regent of Iraq, Abd-al-Ilah, he would help Iraqi opposition parties to overthrow the present government of Nuri Sa'id. Za'im also stated that, in view of the recent recognition of the Syrian Government by the Western powers and by other Arab states, Iraq's refusal to accord recognition to Syria no longer mattered to him.
2. The delegation members believed that Za'im was sincere in his dislike of Nuri Sa'id, but that Za'im was mainly concerned with trying to make an impression on them.
3. Faris Khuri, former Syrian representative to the United Nations, told the Iraqi delegation privately that Za'im would not last long in power, despite the wide recognition which he had received abroad. Faris Khuri stated that, aside from the opposition to Za'im by the Ikhwan al-Muslamin and the intrigues of Jamil Mardam, various Syrian nationalist parties disliked the Za'im regime. Faris Khuri claimed that Syrian desire for union with Iraq was widespread, but not for a union with Iraq under the Nuri Sa'id regime.

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Comment: Faik Samarrie, the Vice President of the Iraqi Independence Party, and Sadiq Shenshal arrived in Damascus on 20 April 1949.

BY CABLE

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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